

[13 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Year	Growth Rate (%)	Share in total exports (%)
2000-01	22.39	83.83
2001-02	(-)0.77	83.65
2002-03	20.05	83.49
2003-04	22.56	84.49
2004-05	29.74	83.78
2005-06(P)	23.37	84.05

Note: (P): Provisional

FDI in agriculture and horticulture

2289. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether FDI is allowed in the field of agriculture and horticulture on a massive scale; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to implement the recommendations of Swaminathan Committee on bio-technology, to eradicate poverty in rural area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in the Agriculture sector except for Floriculture, Horticulture, Development of Seeds, Animal Husbandry, Pisciculture, Aqua-culture and Cultivation of Vegetables and Mushrooms, under controlled conditions and services related to agro and allied sectors where FDI up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route.

(b) Information is being collected.

Retail cement price

2290. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether retail cement prices have soared to a new high since January,